

Reflections on China

Last summer CBS News producer Irv Drasin and a crew of six spent two and a half months in China filming for an upcoming CBS documentary "Shanghai," a portrait of China as reflected through the cultural, political, intellectual and social life of the inhabitants of that nation's — and the world's — largest city. Though Drasin is a long-time student of China with a Harvard M.A. in East Asian studies (and a specialty in China and Chinese languages), and though he produced the CBS Special "Misunderstanding China" in 1972, this was his first visit to Mao's mainland. While there, he jotted down many of his firsthand impressions, observations and reflections on Chinese life. Here, Columbine presents a few of those personal notes.

At the border station, on my way into China, I encounter an American on his way out. He is a salesman for Boeing Aircraft. "Watch out for Shanghai," he warns. "It's a tough city."

On the train to Canton, our escort from China Travel Service somewhat shyly asks about "shuei men," literally "water door," or Watergate. "It's not serious, is it?" he asks. Such questions turn out to be rare during our 10-week stay.

Where once it was we, the foreigners, who regarded the Chinese as exotic curiosities, now, in China, it is we who are the curiosities — even in Canton, home of the official international trade fair, where foreigners are a fairly common sight. During a walk along the Pearl River, an area foreigners once controlled through treaties forced on China in the mid-19th century, we are surrounded and followed by scores of children. There are stares, smiles, excited exchanges among the children and then, very formally, very precisely, small voices saying: "How do you do, sir?" "Good morning, sir."

English is studied on a massive scale, both in and out of school. In Canton, Peking and Shanghai, English lessons are broadcast on the radio four times a day. Young Chinese have been assigned jobs in every hotel, store or restaurant frequented by foreigners so they can practice their vocabulary.

"The astronauts are preparing for their fourteenth day in space," says the Voice of America. Sitting in a Peking hotel room listening to my short wave radio, that particular item seems even more remote than ever. There is no jamming of foreign broadcasts and there have been no restrictions placed on the filming equipment or reading matter we've brought with us. On an-

other night I heard "Radio Free China," loud and clear from Taiwan.

There are graffiti at the Great Wall and at the Soul Tower Pavilion at the Ming Tombs. One line was translated for me: "Anyone who writes here is a turtle's egg," an epithet not to be taken lightly in China.

It is somehow reassuring to see that there are limits to government whatever the political system. It is quite obvious that the Chinese government's determined anti-spitting campaign of the early 1950s has been an utter failure.

A sign in a Peking restaurant, both in English and Chinese: "We have friends all over the world." It could have been Times Square, except for the food (good), the service (efficient) and the prices (low). It's easy to share the Chinese obsession with their food which, it's true, is a cuisine of exquisite tastes. But in hotel dining rooms, where we are eating a good deal, the food can be as mediocre as hotel cooking anywhere.

There is the unexpected meal. One night we dine at The Red House restaurant in Shanghai. Located in what was once the French quarter before the revolution, it was called Chez Louis. Today it still serves a good onion soup, filet mignon, baked potatoes and, for dessert, grand marnier soufflé or baked Alaska.

And a surrealistic meal: barbecued hamburgers and banana splits at the home of a British banker. There are only two British bankers in Shanghai now. They live in the same walled compounds their banks have occupied for the past 50 years, complete with badminton, darts, servants, afternoon tea, and "Pomp and Circumstance" on the phonograph — which they not only play but sing. (I didn't know it had words!) All around them China has changed. They haven't. They have walled in time as well as space.

Increasingly the cliché "lost in translation" takes on a new, and often amusing, meaning. It has been an exhausting 12-hour day of filming in the summer heat and humidity of Shanghai, a city in which virtually all the pastimes of foreigners have been eradicated. Testing his colloquial English, our translator says "Well, I suppose now you'll go out and paint the town red!"

In the summer evening, there is rich, communal street life in Shanghai. It is cooler



Dawn on the first day of the rice harvest on a commune in a suburb of Shanghai.

outside than inside, and the sidewalk becomes the living room for thousands of families, clustered on chairs pulled up under a dim street light. Lights everywhere are dimmed in the Chinese drive to conserve energy.

Activities of an early summer evening: games of Shanghai Poker, chess and checkers, children playing a Shanghai version of "pass the handkerchief," other children learning, literally, their ABCs, knitting, reading, gossip, a "jam session" on traditional Chinese zithers and flutes, ping-pong played against a wall or on a home-made table with a bamboo stick resting on two bricks for a net.

Early in the trip it became clear that there wasn't a Chinese 10-year-old I could defeat in ping-pong. Like the New York Knicks, they only play "as good as they have to." It leaves suspect one of the currently favorite slogans "Friendship first, competition second."

In the neighborhood where we spent a week with a family, a young girl is studying her English textbook. Among the themes of the lessons: "learning English to serve the revolution," "hatred of class enemies," "I will not fear hardship or death," "military training," "learning from low and middle peasants."

There is a grandmother in beginning English lessons here, too. But she is not simply a kindly old lady handing out sweets. She is a lower-middle peasant from whom there are political lessons to be learned. One of those lessons for city people is to respect the peasant: "without him, we would have nothing to eat."

Favorite moments from a Chinese revolutionary opera, "Song of Dragon River." In China, "Time is grain," not money. And, here too, for the ailing heroine there is a concerned relative bringing — chicken soup.

In a branch of the People's Bank on the Upper Nanking Road, the main commercial street in Shanghai, the sound of a hundred abacuses stopped abruptly today. There, in floral print shirt and washed out chinos, was David Rockefeller. He sat — one of the world's leading capitalists — discussing "credit" beneath a portrait of Chairman Mao.

A 12-year-old girl's observation on the particularly long hair of one of our crew members: "It is the foreigner's habit." Wherever we go, curious Chinese ask among themselves, "Is he an aunt or an uncle?"

It should not be surprising that Shanghai shares many big-city problems with the rest of the world: housing, industrial pollution, transportation, crime. But what is most striking is the noise pollution. There are relatively few motor vehicles in Shanghai, but there are more than one million bicycles. The ringing of their bells combined with the horns and whistles of river traffic and the periodic blare of loudspeakers create an inescapable din. Perhaps because it is so unexpected, the noise level seems so astounding.

But Shanghai is full of surprises. Today, we filmed in the house where revolutionary writer Lu Hsun once lived. Our solemn discussion of Lu with the caretakers was broken by the sound of a violin next door. A young girl was practicing the unmistakably Western strains of a Handel sonata.



"Lanes," or neighborhoods are the basic administrative units in China, organized to provide child care, medical help, and even food for workers in neighborhood canteens (above).



Behind Irv Drasin, on a wall outside the Forbidden City, is a poem by Mao in his own calligraphy.



For foreign seamen, the message on this crane is translated into English: Workers of all countries unite.



Boats of every description fill Shanghai's Huang Pu harbor, China's major foreign port.



In an old neighborhood of Shanghai, CBS crewmen spent a week with three generations of the Wu family.



The Chinese junk is a 2000-year-old form of transport which sailed ocean waters to Africa as early as 600 A.D. Junks are still used to ferry everything from fruit to timber.



Bao-tze, or Chinese dumplings, are a basic of Shanghai cuisine. Stuffed with meat, vegetables, or bean paste, they can be bought for 15 cents a half-dozen.

Christmas Tips from Three CBS Reporters



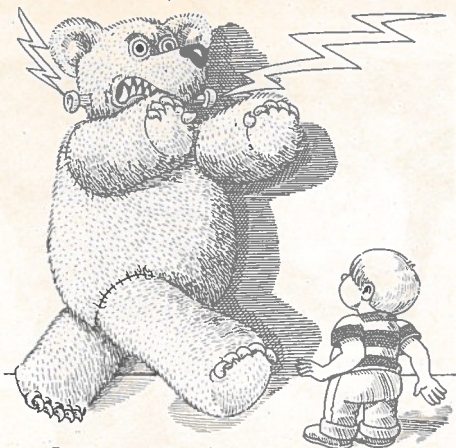
Buy in July The Christmas tip I have in mind obviously comes a little late for this year. But it's a hint that can be tucked away and used for many a Yuletide season to come: Shop Early!

Winter articles that will be right in season next Christmas can also often be purchased at a fraction of their usual cost during summer inventory clearances — June and July. Sales clerks might look at you strangely when you buy four or five cashmere sweaters on a ninety-degree day. But what do you care when you're saving those hard-earned dollars? You can also pick up loads of interesting trinkets when you're off on summer vacation.

Early buying requires a lot of discipline. You have to be careful not to squeal about the articles you have secretly stored in the top of your closet. And, you'll have to restrain yourself from wearing Aunt Mary's earrings, however tempting they may be just lying there in your drawer for eight months.

But a little discipline is a small price to pay compared to the headaches that accompany last-minute shopping. And that little discipline can save you enough money to buy yourself a big gift. But again — not till the post-holiday sales start.

— Jackye Shaun/KNX-AM, Los Angeles



Test Toys First

Chicago has the toughest ordinance on toy safety of any city in the nation. Here are some toy "characteristics" outlawed in Chicago; buyers may want to watch out for them elsewhere.

- * Excessively noisy toys like play machine guns. They can cause hearing damage.
- * Toys with tiny parts that can be swallowed. Sometimes small parts are loose in a toy package — a toy thimble in a child's sewing kit, for example; other times bite-

- size parts, such as the chimney stack on a toy train, can be easily dismantled by a child.
- * Toys coated with lead paint. Look for "no-lead" paint labels.
- * Toys made with flammable cloth. Check for "non-flammable" labels on dolls' clothes, puppets, stuffed animals, etc.
- * Finally, toys built for children to ride on should be stable; test to see that they are capable of bearing weight at the edge without tipping over.

— Susan Anderson/WBBM-TV, Chicago



Give...But Cautiously

Sometime toward the middle of December, many of us succumb to the "God Bless Everyone" syndrome — the urge to shun commercialism and return to the true charitable values of Christmas. But should you have a Dickensian fantasy about personally distributing candy canes and scarves to needy orphans, the Community Council of Greater New York, a city-wide affiliation of health and welfare organizations, suggests you curb it. The Council recommends that you either give money or first consult the children's shelter or hospital of your choice to find out exactly what they do need. You will probably find that children's shelters appreciate large appliances, such as television sets and record players, or books, magazine subscriptions, substantial toys, sports equipment and blocks of tickets for the theater, circus, ice capades and other entertainments.

Often, of course, it is institutions and other charitable causes that find their way to you, soliciting contributions. To help you make an informed choice about whom to help, the Community Council of Greater New York runs a Contributors' Information Bureau, which can give you a brief description of more than 1000 voluntary health and welfare agencies.

The Bureau's reports are based on fiscal, promotional and administrative information supplied by the voluntary organizations themselves as well as on visits to the agencies by the C.I.B.'s own staff. Limitations of the service are that it carries only information on private organizations within the city's five boroughs, and this does not include civic groups, community action programs or religious and educational organizations. For more information contact: The Contributors' Information Bureau of The Community Council of Greater New York, 225 Park Avenue South, New York, New York 10003.

— Jane Tillman Irving/WCBS-AM, New York

Of Cycles, Trout and Tennis Balls ...or, how to get CBS magazines at half price.

On the long list of products that come out of CBS, Inc., there is a group of magazines — seven of them — to which, all told, over 3.5 million Americans subscribe. We figure that some of those subscribers — or would-be subscribers — are found among the 27,800 people who work for CBS, and that, as CBS employees, they might want a break in price. So, in keeping with the upcoming holiday spirit, CBS Publications has arranged for employees a half-price, one-year subscription offer on all of the Division's magazines. To keep the offer simple and manageable, it's necessary to ask that all orders be mailed by January 7, and that checks or money orders accompany subscription orders.

The CBS magazines you can get at half-price are:

FIELD & STREAM For outdoor sportsmen and their families, both beginners and experienced. Articles carry information and advice on hunting, fresh and salt water fishing, camping, boating, archery, conservation, travel and the development of new products for the outdoors. 12 issues for \$2.50 (50% of the regular one-year subscription rate of \$5.00).

ROAD & TRACK For knowledgeable automobile enthusiasts whose main interests are in sports, imported and "special interest" cars. Carries features on international racing and racing personalities, as well as driving reports, results on road tests, and discussions of the technical aspects of automobile machinery. 12 issues for \$5.00 (50% of regular one-year subscription rate of \$10.00).

WORLD TENNIS For players of the game at all levels with how-to-play and how-to-improve articles, plus feature stories on leading players, detailed information on tennis resorts and tennis camps, as well as special features on equipment, tennis apparel, indoor tennis facilities and major tournaments. 12 issues for \$3.50 (or 50% of the regular one-year subscription rate of \$7.00).

EPICURE Dedicated to "the pleasures of living" with a contemporary approach to home entertainment, fine food, wine, spirits and travel. Features include Cook's Review, recommending books on food and drink; Chef's Bazaar, reporting on culinary, bar and food products; and Haute Cuisine Quickies, showing convenient fine food preparations. 6 issues (every other month) for \$2.50 (or 50% of the regular one-year subscription rate of \$5.00).

CYCLE WORLD For motorcycle, motorbike and motor-scooter enthusiasts, with articles on the performance and mechanics of machines, on general developments in the world of motorcycling, on racing results for American and International events, plus information on road testing and biking safety. 12 issues for \$3.50 (or 50% of the regular one-year subscription rate of \$7.00).

PV4 For those who own Pickups, Vans and 4-Wheel Drives as recreation vehicles. Regular features on performance testing of these vehicles (with data helpful for prospective buyers) plus how-to articles for the do-it-yourselfers, and where-to-go pieces for the travelers, along with reviews of special equipment and accessories. 12 issues for \$3.50 (or 50% of the regular one-year subscription rate of \$7.00).

SEA Covers West Coast boating from the San Juan Islands, in the Pacific Northwest, to the Gulf of California, with articles on organized and family boating, cruising, sailing and racing in all sizes of boats. 12 issues for \$3.50 (or 50% of the regular one-year subscription rate of \$7.00).

How to Order: Check on the coupon below, the name (or names) of the publications you wish to order, and, if ordering more than one, please make out separate checks or money orders for each to ease handling on this end. Checks should be made payable to the magazines of your choice (Field & Stream, Road & Track, etc.). Checks or money orders — but no cash! — must accompany the coupon.

☐ Cycle World
☐ Epicure
☐ Field & Stream
☐ PV4

☐ Road & Track
☐ Sea
☐ World Tennis

Make out a separate check payable to the name of each magazine you choose and mail check(s) plus this coupon to:
CBS Publications
P.O. Box 1
Radio City Station
New York, New York 10019

Send to:
Name
Street
City
State Zip



The art and illustrations in the Basic Reading books are widely varied in style, tailored to suit the individual stories they help tell.

Why Johnny Might Read

By Lynne Williams "Ann Marie was a city kid," one story for third graders begins. "She lived in a housing project . . . Her father and mother worked, so there was always some job for her to do. When she came home from school, she had to clean up the house and watch her two sisters. At dinnertime her mother would say, 'Ann Marie, we need some bread from the store,' or 'Haven't you set the table yet?'"

Asked to write out her reaction to Holt's new Basic Reading System, one Chicago 8-year-old scrawled, "That's about me."

Since the U.S. educational system came under sharp critical fire over half a decade ago because kids couldn't read — and because the standard Dick, Jane, and Spot stories they were given to read had little to do with real life — the move toward more relevant reading has come a long way in the local grade school. Holt's Basic Reading System is one of the most striking examples of this turnabout. Developed over a period of five years with the help of more than 100 linguists and reading specialists, Basic Reading, though out in the \$100 million elementary school reading market for less than a year, is now being used to teach a million youngsters to read in more than 35 states.

A glossy 15-level series, the program is designed to carry children step-by-step through their first six years of reading. It aims above all to motivate children to want to read by diminishing the distance between the activity of childhood and the formality of books; by enlivening children's interest with some of the most varied and striking illustrations to be found in any children's books today; and by making children feel at home in the story environments they are immersed in while learning to read.

The governing idea behind the Basic Reading System is that reading must connect children with their own vocabulary. A child's language is an index to his or her personality and a mirror reflecting the child's experience. Words are also the key to the child's self-image and if maximum learning occurs when a child's self-image is supported, then new learning — reading — should verify and build on what the child knows.

With this theoretical guideline in mind, experts at Holt, under the guidance of former Administrative Editor Jack Henderson, set out to develop a reading system that would use children's oral language as its base. Techniques were then created to introduce to that base the elements of written language — the alphabet, the numbers, punctuation marks and models of grammatical structure which make it possible for all of us to arrange words as units of meaning (prepositional phrases like "in the backyard" and adverbial ones like "once upon a time"). "What we wound up with," concludes the brochure by educators who worked on the program, "was a total language approach to the teaching of reading."

This total approach consists of far more than just storybook texts. Altogether the system has more than 500 separate components, reflecting the fact that learning to read American English, linguists generally agree, is more complex than learning to read any other language, including Japanese.

For working with their youngest classes — kindergarten and first grade — teachers are supplied with a Pre-Reading Kit. It contains 240 cards with suggested games, poems, songs and activities. These help lay the groundwork for wanting to read — for a child who's been singing "Looby Lu" all



BEAVER. Fox? The judge? Fox is smart, but he's no judge.
HARE. All I want you to do is come to Old Log on Saturday and say you are my friend.
BEAVER. It sounds interesting, and I wouldn't miss something interesting for anything. But, mind you, I'm a very busy man, and I don't have time for . . .
HARE. Good-by, Beaver, and thank you.
(HARE hops down the road. BEAVER goes on working on his dam.)